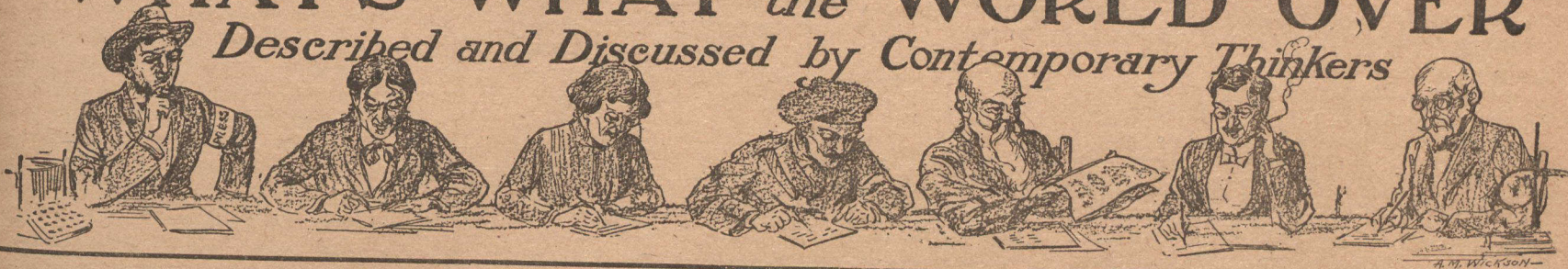


# WHAT'S WHAT *the* WORLD OVER

*Described and Discussed by Contemporary Thinkers*



## NIVELLE'S STORY

*Something About This Great French General's Life*

It was in Northern Africa, in Algeria, writes Charles Johnston, in the North American, that General Nivelle first saw active service. A boy of fourteen at the time of the Franco-Prussian war, he was too young to take part, with Joffre, Gallieni, and Pau, in the fight against the invader; but not too young to feel deeply the defeat and spoliation of France. He studied both at the Ecole Polytechnique and at Saint-Cyr, and fitted himself to serve with equal proficiency in the infantry, the cavalry and the artillery. He was particularly noted, as a subaltern, for horsemanship, and was a reckless rider in regimental steeple-chases. But he finally found his way into the artillery.

In 1900 the Dowager-Empress of China, that magnificent and sinister old woman who was for so many years "the only man in China," counseled thereto, perhaps, by Prince Tuan, had skilfully transformed the semi-revolutionary Boxer organization into a force directed against the foreign residents in China, and had at least connived at their attacks on the foreign legations at Peking. The killing of the German envoy inspired the Kaiser to his famous allocution advising his soldiers to emulate, in punishing China, the exploits of Attila and his Huns, and expeditionary forces were sent through Tien-tsin to the Chinese capital to free the besieged legations. France joined in this expedition, sending a considerable force under General Voyron, and to this force Major Nivelle, as he then was, was attached. But, before they left, they had a graceful duty to perform, and this duty was entrusted to General Nivelle.

The Emperor of Korea had, it seems, supplied horses and cattle and much-desired cigarettes to the French expedition. The horses, unfortunately, died of glanders; the cattle were eaten; but the cigarettes held good. It became necessary to convey the thanks of France to the Emperor and at the same time to repatriate the 150 Korean drovers, and this was Major Nivelle's double task.

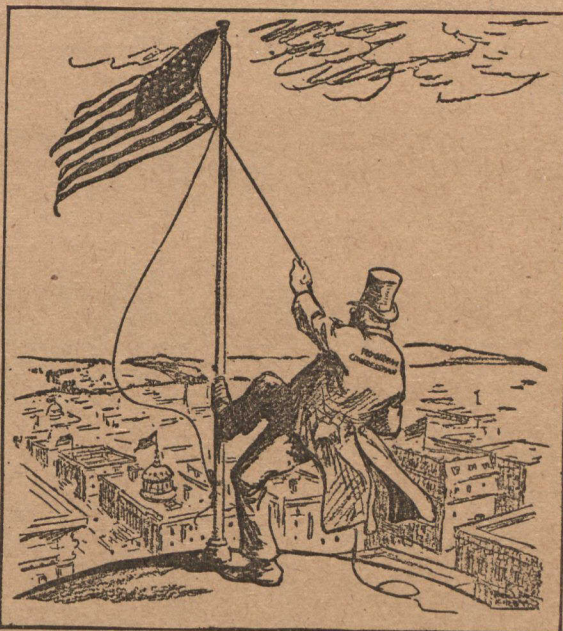
We come to other hours, hard and beautiful, which have made, we may well believe, a still deeper impression on his memory: the opening hours of the great war which has already brought France such undying glory. Colonel Nivelle was then stationed at Besancon under the Juras, in command of the Fifth Artillery, which is a part of the Seventh Army Corps. Ordered into Alsace, with the first French offensive, he was cited in the order of the day for a brilliant exploit: furiously bombarding a group of German guns, he put their artillerymen to flight and captured them all, 24 in number; the first considerable trophy of the war. At the Battle of the Marne, the Seventh Corps with its artillery formed a part of General Maunoury's army, nearest to Paris and facing General von Kluck's right, and Colonel Nivelle's guns had their share in the victory of the Ourcq, which gained such signal praise from the great Commander-in-Chief, as "the fulfilment of forty-three years of waiting for retribution." When the German armies were driven back upon the Aisne, a specially obstinate counter-attack forced the Seventh Corps to withdraw again to the south of the river. Nivelle, with splendid vigour, seized the right instant, led his batteries out into the open space between pursuers and pursued, let the Germans come close in their serried ranks and then opened fire on them with such deadly precision that few of the 6,000 Germans ever re-

turned to their trenches. In October, 1914, a few weeks later, Nivelle was made a General of Brigade. At the head of his brigade he broke a sudden Teuton drive on Soissons. He was rapidly promoted to the command of a division and then an army corps: the famous Third Corps of Normandy. In April, 1916, when Verdun was hard pressed by the greatest offensive a single army ever organized, General Nivelle was sent to succor the heroic fortress which General Sarrail had so finely defended during the great Battle of the Marne. So determinedly did he play his part there, and with such signal success, that he was, within a few weeks, put in command of the whole Verdun army, when he proceeded to break the back of the Crown Prince's army, at a cost, to Germany, of not less than half a million men.

## SUB. LIMITATIONS

*There are a Few Things These Menacing Vessels Can Not Do*

ALTHOUGH it would be premature to conclude from the lessened toll of ships that the Allies have already succeeded in meeting the submarine menace, said a recent writer in the Philadelphia Ledger, there are obvious limits to this form of warfare which justify the assumption that it may fail to achieve its object. The submarine,



Trying to haul it down.

—Kirby in New York World.

it should be remembered, is the assassin of the sea. It cannot fight; it can attack only by stealth. It is so frail a craft that even an armed merchantman, unless taken by surprise, can beat it off. An efficient warship patrol thus makes it practically harmless, as the uninterrupted landing of British troops on French soil has shown. Such transports as have been sunk by torpedoes were attacked in waters that offered no protection of the kind. Furthermore, by the use of aeroplanes, which can detect movements beneath the surface of the sea, and of steel nets, which serve as traps, a battle fleet is practically immune from destruction from this source. But the sea, even that portion of it which Germany has proscribed as a war zone, is a large place, and the convoy of merchantmen within its limits can at best be carried out only partially.

Another obstacle to the use of the submarine

the difficulty of operating it. In the first place, it is a complicated piece of mechanism that requires a picked crew. A recent Italian report enumerates at length the difficulties in the way of securing and training men for this work. No matter how rapidly construction may be proceeding in Germany, it is doubtful if the whole number of submarines, or anything like it, can be in service at once. Finding crews to man them is not the whole problem. Admiral Grant, U. S. N., estimates that ten days must be the utmost extent of the use of the submarine in active hostilities. The conditions below are bad enough when it is on the surface; a single open hatch gives inadequate ventilation. When it is submerged the oil-vapour-saturated atmosphere is well-nigh intolerable. A submarine crew that has been ten days at sea will require a fortnight to recuperate. This drain upon vitality cannot be continued indefinitely. The new German submarines, with their more commodious quarters and great cruising radius, may have obviated some of these difficulties, but there is no reason to suppose that they have radically changed the conditions of life under sea.

It does not follow, however, that the present submarine campaign may not achieve in part the results expected from it. Heavy losses have been inflicted so far; and, though the British Admiralty may have means of defence of which we know nothing, and which are now reducing the losses, it is probable that the net loss of belligerent shipping, which has been so far something like six or seven per cent. annually, may be increased for the time being. Yet it is a significant fact that during the first nine days of renewed frightfulness no fewer than eleven hundred ships were able to arrive or sail unharmed from British ports. The sinking of a great passenger liner naturally leads the public to over-estimate the total effect of submarine warfare. It is very serious, of course; the injury to commercial interests is very great; but there is no ground for assuming that it will be fatal, and that is the purpose of Germany in making it.

## 550 SUB. CHASERS!

*This is the Output of One Firm Alone in 550 Days—How Mosquito Craft Fight Hun.*

PICTURE, says H. Thompson Rich, in the New York Sun, a long low craft, 80 feet from stem to stern, with a beam of 12½ feet and a speed of 19 knots per hour, with a draught of only 4½ feet and a displacement of but 30 tons, yet with sea-keeping qualities that have never before been equalled by so small a craft. Picture a mosquito fleet of these "sea wasps," hundreds of them, keeping up their vigil day and night, in search of a Teuton submarine's betraying conning tower and periscope. Picture the crew, ten men to a boat, seeking hour after hour and day after day for the sight of an undersea raider so that England's vast merchant fleet may do commerce with America unhampered, that the citizens of the British Isles may know no pang of the hunger the German Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg would bring down upon them.

Each of these little vessels mounts a 3-inch rapid fire gun forward, a gun that hurls twelve pound shells at the rate of twenty a minute. And it only takes a single straight aimed missile to send one of Kaiser Wilhelm's sea dachshunds whining to the bottom. Since the beginning of the war England has accounted for between 260 and 300 hostile submarines, and these submarine chasers, the latest